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**SPECIAL WARNING TOPIC**

**17 August 1988**

**LEBANON: Threat to US Personnel**

**Prepared by NIO/Warning and Staff**

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**SPECIAL WARNING TOPIC****LEBANON: Threat to US Personnel**

*The NIO for Warning believes that the following brief, prepared by CIA's Directorate of Intelligence, is sufficiently alarming to merit the immediate attention of the US policy community.*

[REDACTED]

**Violence almost certainly will accompany tomorrow's scheduled Lebanese presidential election, markedly increasing the threat to US personnel stationed in East Beirut. According to Lebanese press reports, the Christian Lebanese Forces militia has criticized negotiating with Syria, in our view an indirect reference to the US-Syrian-Lebanese pre-election talks. We believe that as the situation deteriorates, the militia will increasingly blame the US for its predicament.**

[REDACTED]

The chances for a smooth election are dropping rapidly as President Gemayel and Christian militia leader Samir Ja'Ja move to block the electoral process and prevent the election of a pro-Syrian President. Army Commander General Awn, himself a candidate, may deploy forces in East Beirut to ensure that an election takes place as scheduled, precipitating intra-Christian fighting. Clashes between the Lebanese Army and the Christian Lebanese Forces militia could take place in the area near our embassy and neighborhoods where mission personnel live. Moreover, Lebanese Forces militia attempts to block the election could be interpreted by other Lebanese factions as having US support, and might make US personnel targets of their violence.

[REDACTED]

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LEBANON Threat to US Personnel

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